

*Schiffermuelleria procerella* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) (Lep.: Oecophoridae):

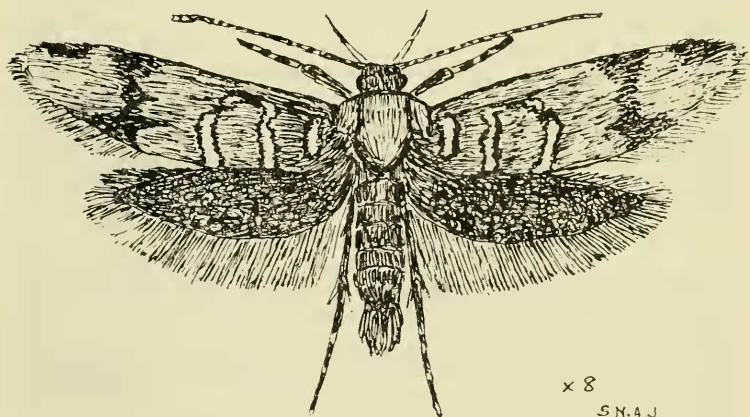
A Species New to Britain

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On the night of 16th July, 1976, while collecting under ideal weather conditions in a wood in Kent with Mr. P. J. Renshaw and his son Chris, J.M.C.-H. took an Oecophorid of unfamiliar appearance among the 120 different species of macro and innumerable species of micro attracted to the m.v. lights. Two nights later, D.J.L.A. took at m.v. light two Oecophoridae of the same species as that above, while collecting with Mr. B. Goater in a wood in another part of Kent.

Reference to Jacobs (1950) showed the moths bore no resemblance to any known British species, and so with the help of Dr. J. D. Bradley and Dr. G. S. Robinson (both of the British Museum, Nat. Hist.), they were identified as *Schiffermuelleria procerella* (D. & S.).



This species has a wide distribution on the European continent. Staudinger and Rebel (1901: 2: 178) record it from Central Europe, Spain, Italy and from as far east as Russia. Lhomme (1949: 2: 706) gives numerous localities for it in France, though mainly in the eastern part; and Crombrugghe de Picquendaele (1906: 2: 56) cites several for Belgium. There is a series of some 20 specimens of *procerella* in the BM(NH), mostly (if not all) from Germany.

Spuler (1910: 2: 348, plt. 89, fig. 50) depicts the moth in colour, and there is a figure of it in black and white in Toll (1946: fig. 133), but as neither of these works is readily available, we illustrate the insect here from a drawing by Mr. Jacobs. The larva is described as being olive-grey with a black

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head, and is said to feed from September to May on lichens and mosses growing on the trunks of trees.

Although quite small, the moth is very distinctive and is thus unlikely to have been overlooked, nor has it been found in a part of the country neglected by entomologists. We may reasonably surmise therefore, that it is a recent arrival in this country, though whether resident or not we have no means of knowing as yet.

The following is a detailed description of the imago. Wingspan 11-13 mm. Head dark bronzy fuscous, palpi long, orange with the terminal joint brown at the tip. Antennae ringed black and white. Thorax and abdomen dark fuscous, with some orange scales on the thorax; tegulae orange. Forewings bright orange; there is a short oblique fascia from the base of the costa to the dorsum, silver-metallic, edged with black. There are further fascias of the same colour at  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  from the dorsum not quite reaching the costa and these are joined by a longitudinal streak near the costa so that a shape approaching a rough rectangle is formed standing on the dorsum. There are dark fuscous spots on the costa at  $\frac{3}{5}$  and near the termen and both these are more or less connected to a dark tornal spot. The cilia are orange. Hindwings dark grey.

### Acknowledgements

In conclusion we wish to acknowledge gratefully the help given to us by Dr. J. D. Bradley and Dr. G. S. Robinson; and to thank Mr. S. N. A. Jacobs for his drawing of the perfect insect.

### References

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DIGITALVA PERLEPIDELLA (STANTON) IN HEREFORDSHIRE.  
 — Dr. M. W. Harper and I took this scarce moth on 21st and 23rd May, 1976 sparingly near Fownhope, and more commonly near Whitchurch in the extreme south-west of the county. Moths were flushed during the day, and seemed to fly quite freely in the evening sunshine. The larva feeds on *Inula conyza*.  
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